

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace Example II at page 10, lines 7-18 with the following amended paragraph:

Example II

Sodium nitrite ~~was~~ is incubated at room temperature for 15 minutes with packed deoxygenated red blood cells. The product ~~was~~ is shown to contain iron nitrosyl hemoglobin.

A 67 year old with severe coronary disease is in a motor vehicle accident and therefore requires a blood transfusion. His hematocrit is 24. He is given 2 units of blood and his blood pressure rises 10 mm Hg. The patient experiences chest pain. An additional transfusion is ~~recommened~~ recommended for continued blood loss. Nitrite pretreated red blood cells as described in the above paragraph are given without increase in blood pressure and the chest pain resolves. The same result is obtained even though the nitrite pretreated red blood cells are stored with preservative for 10% longer than is currently allowed.

Please replace Example IV at page 10, lines 25-29 with the following amended paragraph:

Example IV

A 75-year old male with angina and a hematocrit of 40, ~~received~~ receives an infusion of 100 cc nitrite pretreated red blood cells (pretreated as described in Example II) which ~~do~~ does not change the oxygen carrying capacity of his blood but nevertheless resolves the angina.